



**RIO ARRIBA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024, 10:00 AM  
1122 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD  
ESPANOLA, NEW MEXICO 87532**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A special meeting of the Rio Arriba County Board of County Commissioners was called to order by Commission Chair Naranjo, at 10:00 AM, on Tuesday, September 11, 2024, at the County Administration Offices, in the Commission Chambers, Espanola, New Mexico.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Commissioner Alex M. Naranjo, Chair  
Commissioner Moises A. Morales  
Commissioner Brandon M. Bustos.

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Jeremy Maestas, County Manager  
George Maestas, County Clerk's Office  
Sheila Garcia, Rio Arriba County  
Joaquin Valdez, County Assessor  
Donald Valdez, Assessor's Office  
Adan Trujillo, City Attorney  
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Bustos.

**IV. INVOCATION**

The Invocation was given by Commissioner Morales

**V. COMMISSIONER GREETINGS AND OPENING REMARKS**

Commissioner Morales welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**VI. COUNTY MANAGER GREETING AND OPENING REMARKS**

Mr. Morales, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**VII. APPROVAL OF TODAY'S AGENDA**

Mr. Maestas recommended approval of the agenda.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Commissioner Bustos, seconded by Chair Naranjo, to approve the agenda as presented.

**VOTE** The motion passed on a voice vote.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. ACTION ITEMS**

**1. RESOLUTIONS**

**A. RESOLUTION NO. 2025-020  
2924 CERTIFICATE OF TAX RATES**

Mr. Maestas recommended approval of the Resolution.

Mr. Valdez presented the Resolution and the tax rates.

The information was included in the meeting packet.

Chair asked how much is the increase overall.

Mr. Valdez said he doesn't know overall number. Residential is capped at 3% from the prior year.

Chair Naranjo said he finds Rio Arriba County unique. What can we, as a Commission do to question the increase.

Mr. Valdez you have the authority to lower your rate.

Chair Naranjo said the most important things in any County are roads, law enforcement and taxes. We have to protect our tax base and keep it as low as we can.

Mr. Maestas said he is curious if you can give us an overview of how the State determines the tax rate from start to finish. Shouldn't it be your office to challenge the State.

Mr. Valdez said the letter was sent to the Commission from DFA to look over the rates and share rates with other governmental entities.

Mr. Maestas said we rely on the input and recommendation of the County Assessor. Where are you in all of this.

Mr. Valdez said we do the valuation following the Property Tax Code. We give that to the State. The government entities are supposed to use those values to assess their budgets.

Mr. Trujillo said it is an interrelated process. The Assessor plays a role. The State sets the rates and provides them to the Commission. The Commission imposes those rates.

Chair Naranjo asked is this a standard rate throughout the State.

Mr. Valdez said it differs from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. The County has mills to impose. You don't have to impose the maximum.

Mr. Maestas said he advises the Commission to be cautious on that. If we lower the mill rate that is a drastic measure that effects the budget as well. Other County's who have tourism dollars can rely on other revenue. We do not have that.

There was continued discussion on this matter.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Bustos, to approve Resolution 2025-020

**VOTE** The motion passed on a voice vote.

**B. RESOLUTION NO. 2025-021  
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A  
PARCEL LAND IN OJO CALIENTE, NEW MEXICO, AND  
AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO TAKE ANY  
OTHER ACTIONS AS MAY BE REQUIRED IN  
FURTHERANCE OF THIS ACQUISITION**

Mr. Trujillo presented the Resolution.

Chair Naranjo asked if we have title insurance.

Mr. Trujillo said that comes after the purchase. This property does look like it has a clean title. It is the responsibility of the title company to issue a title insurance policy. If all the conditions are not satisfied to the Managers satisfaction, then the County can say we are not moving forward with that because we can't get clear title.

Mr. Maestas said the County received \$90,000 for the project. The County was only able to use \$71,000 for the acquisition. We will have to find \$13,500 elsewhere.

Mr. Maestas recommended approval under the condition that the property has a clear title and title insurance is provided.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Bustos, to approve the Resolution.

**VOTE** The motion passed on a voice vote.

## **X. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **A. PER ARTICLE 15, SECION 10-15-1 OF THE NEW MEXICO STATE STATUES OPEN MEETINGS ACT**

There was no need for an Executive Session.

## **XI. COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Maestas said we did meet yesterday with a potential operator for the Nursing Home. We are on track to get moving. We need to lobby hard at the legislature for additional funding. Construction began in January. If we are not able to obtain capital outlay, the County will have to look at a loan. Costs have increased.

Char Naranjo said we are taking action and being blamed for something not moved forward 5 years ago.

Mr. Maestas said in the article in the paper it stated we let go of our financial manger. We did do that. We have a project manager.

## **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' REPORT**

None.

## **XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **A. REGULAR COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER 2024 WILL BE HELD IN ESPANOLA ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, AT**

**10:00 AM**

Chair Naranjo reviewed the announcement.

**XIII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** A motion was made by Commissioner Bustos, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to adjourn the meeting.

**VOTE** The motion passed on a voice vote.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

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Alex M. Naranjo, Chairman, District II

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Brandon M. Bustos, Commissioner District I

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Moises Morales, Commissioner, District III

ATTESTED TO BY:

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Sarah Archuleta, County Clerk